

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)	MAIL STOP Amendment
Gert Stauch et al.)	Group Art Unit: 3752
Application No.: 10/560,908)	Examiner: Steven J. Ganey
Filed: June 15, 2006)	Confirmation No.: 6072
For: ULTRASONIC STANDING WAVE- ATOMIZER ARRANGEMENT)	
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REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-30 remain pending.

In numbered paragraph 2 on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-14, 11, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) for alleged anticipation by *Bauckhage et al* (U.S. Patent Application No. 5,164,198). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As shown in Applicants' Figure 2, an exemplary standing-wave atomizer includes a sonotrode 12 and reflector 14. The sonotrode 12 and the reflector 14 are separated by an intermediate space 16 in which an ultrasonic wave is formed. A tubular tank discharge nozzle 18 protrudes into the space 16. The discharge nozzle 18 emits sheets of paint that are acted upon by the ultrasonic standing-wave field located in the space 16 to atomize the paint. Air distributors 22 can be arranged on both sides of the paint nozzle 18 so that air fed from the air distributors 22 forms an air curtain 26, that shields an end face of the sonotrode 12 and the reflector 14 from